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Chapter 4. Rights and Responsibilities of Professional Staff

RP-4.1 Political Activity

RP-4.1.1 Academic Responsibility

The Board of Regents hereby makes its position clear on certain matters important to the general welfare and future progress of the University.

1. We are determined that the instructional programs, and opportunities for learning that they extend to students, shall continue without interruption.
2. Our expectations of the faculty are clear--we expect them to fully meet their professional obligations to the University and to their students. Those faculty members who miss classes are obligated to make every reasonable effort to make up any, and all, of the work omitted.
3. It is clear that when political activities interfere with the fulfillment of professional and contractual obligations, judgments must be made and appropriate action taken. The prime administrative responsibility for such judgments belongs to the President.
4. We wish to direct attention, particularly that of all members of the University community, to "The Student in the Academic Community," (RP-5.1.2), a document inaugurated by students, developed in concert with the faculty and administrative officers, and approved in June, 1968, by the Board of Regents. In speaking of the University, this document declares:

Each member of the community should be treated with respect and dignity. Each has the right to learn. This right imposes a duty not to infringe upon the rights of others. The academic community should assure its members those opportunities, protections, and privileges which provide the best climate for learning.

The foregoing statement, in our opinion, makes clear that the right to learn is a basic right on our campuses and as a consequence this Board, as the governing authority, is determined to make certain that this right shall not be abused. It is our intention that the right to dissent shall be honored but that the exercise of it will not be allowed to interfere with the rights of those who prefer not to participate in that exercise.

Reference: BRUN, Minutes, 31, p. 303 (May 18, 1970).
BRUN, Minutes, 56, p. 149 (September 6, 1991).

RP-4.1.2 Regent Campaigns

No administrative officer of the University of Nebraska shall be asked to participate or shall participate, directly or indirectly, in the campaigns for election of members of The Board of Regents. This prohibition shall not be interpreted as limiting an administrative official from exercising his or her right to vote for a candidate for public office.

Reference: BRUN, Minutes, 33, p. 151 (July 12, 1971).

RP-4.2 Academic-Administrative Personnel Matters

RP-4.2.1 Prohibition of Rollover Contracts

Neither the President nor administrative officers designated by the President to approve employment contracts pursuant to Section 3.2 of the *Bylaws of the Board of Regents* may approve contracts of employment providing for automatic renewal (so-called "rollover" contracts).

Reference: BRUN, Minutes, 62, p. 50 (June 20, 1998).